/117 cont./
829 797 177 clothing in payment for the service. Let the reader imagine how the poor father, who had nothing, felt when he heard such a petition (1)!

1. Corrado, Historia de las Misiones del Colegio Apostólico de Tarija.

Vices and Their Consequences

883 842 It seems to be and is an unfortunate truth that in this tribe, once so numerous, there is no lack of coquettish girls, who, if they restrained themselves from flirting any more, would not be so bad. The unfortunate thing is that these poor girls, in order to enjoy mundane pleasures and drink to the depths the dregs of corruption, or also in order not to have the nuisance of nursing children and training them, have recourse to a very simple thing. They consult the old women who bear the name of sorcerers, and these show them the remedy, which consists of a drink that they extract from certain plants or herbs which almost all the Chiriguano women and Indian sorcerers know wonderfully well. [756] [278] [885]

883 786 /118/ These unfortunate girls, usually orphans, once the period of puberty is over, drink this venomous beverage, suffer a great deal, if indeed they do not die, and are sterilized, and they then give themselves up to orgies at the time of general drinking, which is the most terrible thing that you can imagine, because at them morality is offended by words and very licentious stories, by raucous laughter and giggling by men and women, by their glances, and finally by their acts, although these take place at a suitable distance from the said gathering. [881] [842] 797

/118 cont./

797 These facts cannot be denied, because they are based [786] on the experience of centuries. Unfortunately, they do [883] occur, and it is very difficult to uproot them. There is no lack of repentance or lack of punishment, admonitions, and fears, but civilizing action is not enough for this, nor even often the Gospel, because: animalis homo non percipit quae Dei sunt. We can say that the action of the missionary is one of yesterday among the Chiriguano. The Christians or neophytes have changed much in relation to the infidels throughout the region, but a great deal more is still lacking for them to come to understand the strength of Religion and civilization, since, naturally, abandoned humanity gives free rein to passions and it is indeed difficult to contain it afterwards in a short time (1).

1. The infidels of the missions complain about the neophytes, but they do not understand that times have changed, and the [674] race as well. Murders are committed in other places, but this does not happen in the missions.

847 Sister to the sterility which the coquettish girls manage to procure is abortion. There is no woman who does not know the thousand ways for procuring this, always provided that they have not obtained or resorted to remedies for 847 sterilizing themselves at puberty. In general it is those girls 586 who have been betrayed by their lovers or abandoned by 836 those who have sworn fidelity to them throughout their 848 lives who come to this excess of killing innocent babies. For this reason they not only hate the perpetrator, but also his fruit in their bellies, and thus they make an effort to get rid of the innocent one by plucking it dead from their breast.